



INL employees and leaders received the Secretary's Honor Award from Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman. Pictured are (l to r): INL Laboratory Director John Grossenbacher, recipient Mike Tyacke, Bodman, recipient Ken Allen, DOE-ID Operations Manager Beth Sellers and recipient Igor Bolshinsky.

INL employees receive awards from Energy Secretary Bodman

by [Ethan Huffman](#), *INL Communications*

Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman recently recognized more than 150 employees from across the Department of Energy complex with Achievement Honor Awards for their significant efforts and accomplishments on behalf of the Department and the United States. The awards represent the highest nonmonetary recognition that employees and contractors can receive for providing exceptional service to the DOE and the country. Among the recipients were nine employees from Idaho National Laboratory, the Idaho Cleanup Project and the Department of Energy's Idaho Operations Office.



Honors Award recipients each received a personalized crystal trophy, certificate and lapel pin from Secretary Bodman.

INL employees Igor Bolshinsky, Mike Tyacke and Ken Allen received individual awards alongside several colleagues who have worked to implement the presidential-level Bratislava Security Initiative. The 2005 agreement — signed by President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin — set forth a commitment and process to secure large amounts of nuclear weapons usable materials in Russia and around the world.

The INL trio has led efforts to eliminate central European stockpiles of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and encourage those countries to convert their research reactors from using HEU to using low-enriched uranium (LEU) fuel. In the last six years, the INL team — along with experts from other national laboratories, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the National Nuclear Security Administration — has secured and safely transported nearly 1,700 pounds of HEU fuel from countries including the Czech Republic, Poland and Bulgaria.

Other Bratislava Initiative employees have worked to significantly accelerate security upgrades at nuclear facilities and convert additional foreign and domestic research reactors to operate with a proliferation-resistant LEU fuel source.

Five employees from the Idaho Cleanup Project and DOE-Idaho also received recognition for their work in negotiating and executing an agreement between the DOE and the state of Idaho that implemented a cleanup plan for buried waste from the INL Site. The agreement included a reduced scope of work, long-term protections for the Snake River Plain Aquifer and the local environment, as well as worker safety requirements. The agreement will save taxpayers an estimated \$5 billion by the time cleanup work is completed. Recipients included Brandt Meagher and Robert Iotti of CH2M-WG Idaho, along with Richard Provencher, Brett Bowhan and Mark Arenaz of DOE-Idaho. Idaho Operations Office Manager Elizabeth Sellers received an award for overseeing federal efforts on the cleanup project.

In announcing the awards, Bodman acknowledged that recipients were both an inspiration and an encouragement to the entire DOE complex.

"Our program offices, field sites and laboratories are filled with some of the best and brightest federal and contractor employees in the government," said Bodman. "This impressive collection of professionals confronts the challenges associated with our missions head on, each and every day, and they represent our greatest resource."

The Secretary's Honor Award program was established in 2007 as a way to recognize the contributions of individual employees who have surpassed the highest standards of excellence, demonstrated great knowledge and ability, and exhibited exceptional commitment to service. This was the second ceremony hosted by Bodman.

Read more about INL's efforts to eliminate central European stockpiles of [highly enriched uranium](#).

Read more about the [Secretary's Honor Award program](#).

[Feature Archive](#)